



Meeting Time & Place: Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 8:30 a.m., Big Sky Bistro, Polson.

In Attendance: Salisha Old Bull from Kicking Horse Job Corps; Todd Erickson, Debbie Krantz, and Blakely Phillips from Lake County Job Service; Marilyn Becker from Lake County OPA; Jesse Yarbrough from Polson High School; Ken Avison from The Cove Deli; and Kelley Druyvestein, invited as a guest.

Treasurer's Report: Jessie reported via email that we have \$7,308.13 in the account. We received the last outstanding payment from the ABC Clinic for \$70. That will bring our balance to \$7,378.13.

Old Business:

Review/Approve Minutes: Ken moved to approve the minutes as written, Kelley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

Workshop Committee: Todd reported that the 2013 ABC Clinic date is set for September 11th at the Lake County Health Department. The room is already reserved for the Clinic.

Soft Skills Training: Debbie shared that Paula Aznoe with the Lake County Job Service is a Certified Soft Skills Trainer and that there are resources and classes available to employers for their staff. The training could be geared towards a specific business.

Jesse shared some information about trends they are seeing in the schools. Polson is now a Graduation Matters community and has received a grant to help improve graduation rates. They are looking to partner with local businesses/services – promoting graduation, soft skills, teaching behaviors – not necessarily content. They have developed a teaching plan with a community component teaching youth how to behave when they are out in the community. They are integrating a new culture into all of the classes. It will not be a separate class, but interwoven in all the classes. They are also going to be focusing on using technology properly – such as making the shift from a “no use” cell phone policy to a “appropriate use” cell phone policy, and using technology to further educate.

Ken and Jesse both touched on the fact that teaching soft skills is everyone's job. The school has recognized the need to provide guidance in this area, reinforcing a culture of respect, dependability and accountability.

Debbie asked Jesse how we can help, what kind of resources we can provide, and what kind of workshops we can put on. Jesse stated that Graduation Matters will help the school communicate what the community can do to help. They will really be looking for community input and assistance.

Ken was very appreciative to hear that this is something that the schools are focusing on. It is important for the youth, the community, and the future of both.

There was considerable brainstorming on the concept, and how the community can assist. The school is going to try to identify what is needed and what contributions business and community members can make. We will continue this discussion at future meetings.

JSEC Facebook Page: Debbie shared that we have the approval to start a Lake County JSEC Facebook page. Whitney has volunteered to head it up as the Page Administrator. Marilyn suggested posting real-life examples from local businesses as an opportunity to share best practices.

Partnership with SHRM: Last month, we discussed the JSEC/SHRM partnership. We would still need to make sure our meeting topics stay relevant and that we bring in something value-added whenever possible to encourage higher attendance. Nothing is finalized, but it is looking like this is something we will move forward with.

Manager's Report: Debbie reported that Jessie Going started on Monday December 3rd as a Temporary Employment Specialist. Debbie also shared the current unemployment rates by county for the State. Lake County is now under 8%, although that is likely to increase with the season change. As of December 31st, unemployment insurance extensions are ending. Everyone on an extension will be "hard exited" and stop receiving benefits unless something is changed from the congressional level before that date.

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 8th, 8:30 a.m. at the Big Sky Bistro.